

GIDEON SHELTON.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 207.]

MARCH 5, 1840.

Mr. S. W. MORRIS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Gideon Sheldon, report :

That they have had the same under consideration, and consider the petitioner entitled to relief. The Committee on Invalid Pensions, at the last and previous session, reported favorably; and this committee now adopt, and make part of this, the report of January 2, 1839.

A bill is therefore reported.

JANUARY 2, 1839.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Gideon Sheldon, report :

The petitioner states, on oath, that he was a soldier in the late war, under Captain Wright, of the 30th regiment of light infantry; that in the winter of 1813 and 1814 he was on fatigue duty nearly all the time; that, during his services aforesaid, in consequence of fatigue and exposure to severe storms and extreme cold weather, he was seized with inflammatory rheumatism, which continued to increase upon him until his whole nervous system became affected and deranged, and finally terminated in what is called *St. Vitus's dance*, which continues to this time; that he is now, and has been for the last ten years, afflicted with said disease in its most aggravated form, which almost deprives him of the power of speech, and renders him unable to labor; that said disease came on him gradually, in consequence of the rheumatism contracted in the service of the United States, while in the line of his duty. The statement of the petitioner is corroborated by a number of witnesses, under oath, who knew him in the army, and ever since, up to this time. One of the witnesses is Mr. Young, the lieutenant of the company in which petitioner served. Two of the witnesses state that they were acquainted with him prior to and immediately before he entered the army; and that he was a remarkably healthy, robust man.

Doctors J. Cleveland and Horace Green state, on oath, that owing to the disease called *St. Vitus's dance*, under which said Sheldon now labors, he

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is wholly disabled from obtaining his subsistence by manual labor; and that they believe said disease resulted from exposure and fatigue while in the service of the United States.

Benjamin King, Surgeon General *ad interim*, gives his opinion, in writing that the St. Vitus's dance is not caused or produced by fatigue or exposure.

Doctors James Porter and H. Green, and Richard Woodward, professor of surgery in the Vermont Academy of Medicine, all concur in the opinion that the *chorea* or *St. Vitus's dance* may be produced by exposure and fatigue. It is certified that all the physicians above named are respectable in their profession.

Committee report a bill.

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